

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 17, 2001

## Join the Corps Reform Caucus

Dear Colleague:

We would like to invite you to join the Corps Reform Caucus, a bi-partisan, geographically and ideologically diverse group that shares a common concern about the Army Corps of Engineers' projects and policies, and particularly their lack of financial accountability and record of environmental protection.

Historically, the Army Corps of Engineers has been involved in many of the nation's navigation and flood control projects. Communities from every state have relied upon the Corps to prevent flood damage and to aid economic development.

The federal taxpayer has spent billions of dollars constructing these projects, yet many of them have not returned the predicted benefits, while others have caused enormous environmental damage. We are sure you share our concern about this devastating situation, as well as the recent series in *The Washington Post* and other media reports that have raised serious questions about the integrity of current Corps projects and their potential for institutional bias.

Because American citizens and the U.S. government have come to rely upon the Corps' services, the organization must reflect the highest possible standards and accountability. The Corps Reform Caucus will provide a needed forum for interested Members of Congress to work together toward a financially and scientifically accountable Army Corps of Engineers.

The Caucus will aim to give Members a greater understanding of issues relating to the Corps, an independent role in reviewing the Corps' project analyses and a greater opportunity to improve the Corps' accountability and environmental benefits.

If you would like to join us in this effort, please contact Rachel Soura-Page in Congressman Blumenauer's office at 225-4811 or Matt Knoedler in Congressman Tancredo's office at 225-7882 with an indication of who we should contact on your staff regarding these issues. We would like to work quickly to put together an organizational meeting as soon as possible in the new session.

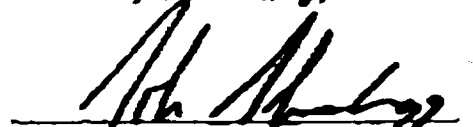
Sincerely,

  
Earl Blumenauer, MC

  
Ron Kind, MC

  
Ellen O. Tauscher, MC

  
Wayne T. Gilchrest, MC

  
John B. Shadegg, MC

  
Thomas G. Tancredo, MC